TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, EDITOR AND MANAGER

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PUBLIC OFFICE AND PRIVATE PROSECUTION

WHERE does it begin and where can it end? The people of Nevada have been sorely tried in keeping account of their elective officials who always seem to have an insatiable longing for the flesh pots of Egypt. They are never satisfied with what the electors choose to comfer but they are reaching out and grasping for more Their fingers fairly itch for something to do outside their chosen province until it is no wonder that ordinary mortals come to look upon their elective officials as pre-sanctified born in the purple and exempt from all laws. Nye county has had so many illustrations of the disregard for the decencies of life that taxpayers wonder if there is any time or place where a halt will be called. At the last session of the legislature the lawmakers at Carson City were informed that the burden of work imposed on the district attorney's office was more than any one pair of shoulders could endure. Thereupon, with a kindly contempt for the cost of the superfluous frills on the body politic, the Solons established the office of assistant district attorney that the real incumbent might not grow round shouldered or fail in the good work entrusted to his elemency. This assumption of an overworked official must have been backed by some potent argument, but the specious nature of the representation never came to the knowledge of the dear public. The first intimation was the actual appointment of an assistant whose duties were to lighten the labors of his superior.

Had these representations been predicated on facts the Bonanza would not have a word to say against the creation of a dozen or more similar jobs for far from being opposed to duress in office this paper would like to see every official receive a proper compensation for his

Now for the facts. The same district attorney of Nye county, the overworked official suffering from brain fag, has sallied forth into Elke county for the purpose of conducting a prosecution that should have devolved on the attorney general. The latter was too busy to give the subject his attention so he called in his man Friday to assume the role of prosecutor. It is a common law of friendships that one good turn deserves another. When the public prosecutor of Nye county had chestnuts to pull out of the fire he called in the Honorable George Thatcher, attorney general, to use his office of public prosecutor to advance the ends of a private prosecution. This was in the libel ease affecting the editior of this paper. The people of Nye county were compelled to foot a bill of some thousands of dollars to gratify the spleen of the district attorney. The machinery of the law was harnessed to a private suit and now, after three months the attorney general finds it convenient to reward his henchman of Tonopah with the conduct of a suit in a distant county in which the taxpayers of Nye county have no interest. The district attorney of this county receives an emolument of \$3,600 per annum and all expenses. He has an assistant at \$1,200 a year. Neither has been in Topopah for three days. Both officials were away attending to private business. Yet, the commissioiners say, the office has too much work for one man. Besides the assistant a stenographer at \$100 per month is employed.

This is certainly going some. The district attorney elected to r the public business of this county, whose eloquence convinced the legislature that he was overworked and therefore needed an assistant to help him from lapsing into a state of mental decrepitude cannot find enough business at home to prevent the rust from · accumulating in his cerebal cavity and therefore has to go outside his province to act as a quasi attorney general.

What have the taxpayers to say about it? Are they a lot of puling sycophants that they have lost every trace of manhood and stand for this course of treatment. Are the county commissioners, the county auditor and the county treasurer going to read over their oaths of office and issue a voucher for the services of an official whose time is spent away from his legal field. Watch for the May warrants and see if this district attorney has the hardihood to call for the salary allowed his office. Here is a case where watchful waiting may bring interesting developments.

DRUNK WITH AUTHORITY

SAN FRANCISCO is perturbed over the prospect of increased taxation and the citizens have organized for the purpose of studying the effectiveness of the municipal organization to the end that the budget may be reduced five cents below what has been tendered as the last word of the administration as the lowest rate that will meet expenses for the year.

To effect a reduction of FIVE CENTS PER HUNDRED DOL LARS the chief interests of that city have got together and demanded a survey of municipal receipts and expenditures. This does not strike the average Nevada taxpayer as an unreasonable proposition. Neither does it seem to a Tonopah taxpayer worth the while to go to all this expense and trouble for the sake of SAVING FIVE CENTS A HUNDRED IN TAXES.

Why should it? The people of Tonopah must be drunk with prosperity or the office holders are intoxicated with power and a little brief authority. The latter think nothing of slapping on an additional 50 cents. In fact these gentlemen are rather resentful that any one should criticise their conduct in asking the taxpayer to quietly comply with their demand. This is nothing more than a cutthroat policy of the stand and deliver order. It is sandbagging the taxpayer into submission. Yet there has not been a voice raised in protest against the imposition, the injustice of which is admitted and conceded by every one. Compare yourself with the attitude of the San Francisco business men. They are going to sift the whole question of municipal management to find why the proposed levy should be raised FIVE CENTS PER HUNDRED DOLLARS. The Chroniele takes the supervisors to book in no faint hearted way in an editorial that closes with this trenchant appeal that should find lodgment in the minds of every thinking citizen of Tonopah and Nye county. The editorial states: "If waste is discovered in the personal element -numbers, pay, energy and hours of service-it is expected that the supervisors will help to eliminate it ? Or, if they will not, are the people expected to eliminate the supervisors? Let us at least have some elear thinking along these lines,"

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